



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-6**

October 28, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND NORTH EAST TREES FOR FUNDING
THIENES AVENUE GATEWAY PROJECT - PHASE II
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Authorize the Interim Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, or his designee, to enter into a cooperative agreement with North East Trees (NET), a California nonprofit organization, to provide \$15,000, from the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District Budget, to integrate architectural and aesthetic elements at the Thienes Avenue Gateway Project Phase II, that conform to the visions and goals of the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan and establish the effective date following Board approval.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

NET is a nonprofit organization, and its mission is to connect people to our natural lands and waterways by designing and building environmentally sustainable open space projects through education and conservation planning.

NET is in the process of completing the project which involves renovating a popular equestrian and bike path entry point to the San Gabriel River Regional Riding and Hiking Trail located on property of the District. The project is located adjacent to the unincorporated community of South El Monte. NET was allocated \$85,000 from the First Supervisorial District Proposition A Competitive Excess Funds to design and install a vista point, landscape enhancements, and a seating area at the gateway. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is also providing NET with \$12,000 for the development and installation of educational and directional signage at the site.

The project is within the study area of the San Gabriel River Corridor Master Plan currently being prepared by the District. The goal of the master plan is to identify recreation, open space, and habitat enhancement opportunities along the river corridor. Since a significant portion of the project will occur on District rights of way, Public Works is involved to ensure it is consistent with the goals, objectives, and design guidelines of the master plan.

Under the cooperative agreement, NET will agree to modify the project to more accurately conform it to the District's proposed master plan. NET will meet with the District, submit plans and specifications for the District's review and approval, and revise construction documents to address any comments or concerns of the District. The District's contribution of \$15,000 will supplement funds NET has already secured from other sources. NET estimates the total cost for the improvements to be \$112,000. The District's funding is contingent upon NET's completion of the improvements.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness by utilizing a collaborative effort to implement the project. This action also meets the Strategic Plan Goal of Community Services by increasing recreational opportunities and environmental benefits and improving the quality of life for citizens of the County of Los Angeles.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The total cost to the District for this cooperative agreement is \$15,000. Sufficient funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District Budget.

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FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The cooperative agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

On October 19, 2004, your Board found this project to be categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act in accordance to Sections 15301 (c) and (h) and 15304 (b) and (h) of the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

No contracting of services is required of the District.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no adverse impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Interim Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel